

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 16 - 62 that read as follows:

16. (New) A system for automatically providing asset allocation services comprising:

    a data processing system for providing asset allocation offering automatic asset management in such a manner that conflicts of interest are reduced or eliminated.

17. (New) The system of claim 16, wherein the input of time spent thereon by an individual is minimized.

18. (New) The system of claim 16, wherein the individual is an investor or a person acting on behalf of an investor or investors.

19. (New) The system of claim 16, wherein the automatic asset management is offered at a more efficient cost structure.

20. (New) The system of claim 16, wherein the conflicts of interest are substantially eliminated.

21. (New) The system of claim 16, further comprising:  
    means for reducing possible economic conflicts of interest by appropriately selecting whether and/or how to separate or combine the determination of how to allocate investment assets from other functions.

22. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein at least one of the other functions comprises asset management.

23. (New) The system of claim 16, wherein the asset allocation comprises employing an Independent Person such as an Independent Expert.

24. (New) The system of claim 23, wherein the Independent Person receives fees, which are generally or totally independent from fees or profits charged or received in connection with asset management.

25. (New) The system of claim 16, wherein an Independent Person such as an Independent Expert determines or approves the basis for asset allocation.

26. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the Independent Person is generally or totally independent from and unrelated to any person who receives compensation in connection with asset allocation or to any person who receives compensation in connection with asset management.

27. (New) The system of claim 16, further comprising:  
means for assuring that the asset management is performed by one or more investment managers who are unaware of the individual allocations but instead see only the aggregate of assets to be managed.

28. (New) A system for automatically providing savings services comprising:

a data processing system for generally or totally independent assistance to an individual in establishing or maintaining savings programs in combination with other services in such a manner that conflicts of interest are reduced.

29. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein one of the other services offered is automatic asset management.

30. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein the input of time spent thereon by an individual is minimized.

31. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein the individual is an investor or a person acting on behalf of an investor or investors.

32. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein the automatic savings services or other services are offered at a more efficient cost structure.

33. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein the conflicts of interest are substantially eliminated.

34. (New) The system of claim 28, further comprising:  
means for reducing possible economic conflicts of interest by appropriately selecting whether and/or how to separate or combine the determination of how much to save from functions that generate fees directly or indirectly.

35. (New) The system of claim 34, wherein the fee generating functions comprise asset management.

36. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein the independent assistance in establishing savings programs employs, or uses principles established by, an Independent Person such as an Independent Expert.

37. (New) The system of claim 36, wherein the Independent Person receives fees that are generally or totally independent from the fees and/or profits received for asset management.

38. (New) The system of claim 36, wherein the Independent Person is generally or totally independent from and unrelated to any person who receives compensation in connection with asset allocation or to any person who receives compensation in connection with asset management.

39. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein an Independent Person such as an Independent Expert determines or approves the basis on which savings programs are established.

40. (New) The system of claim 28, further comprising:  
means for assuring that the asset management is performed by an investment manager who is unaware of the individual contributions but instead sees only the aggregate of assets to be managed.

41. (New) A system for providing automatic asset allocation services comprising:

data storage for storing data from at least one source for a plurality of entities;  
an asset allocation model for automatically determining varying proportions of at least one investment vehicle, the asset allocation model being designed or approved by an Independent Person such as an Independent Expert; and  
means for processing the data relative to at least one of the entities such that the asset allocation is automatically calculated and implemented for the at least one entity.

42. (New) The system of claim 41, wherein at least one entity is an individual investor, a third party acting on behalf of an individual investor or a facilitator.

43. (New) The system of claim 41, further comprising:  
means for generating a report that informs the at least one entity at least of the specific asset allocations made, the total account balance and periodic contributions without direction from the entity.

44. (New) The system of claim 43, further comprising:  
in the event an entity should opt out of the system for providing automatic asset allocation services, means for processing the data from that entity, such that a tangible recommendation as to asset allocation is generated and sent to the entity that opted out or to a third party acting on behalf of the entity.

45. (New) The system of claim 41, further comprising:  
means for correlating asset allocation for the at least one entity with that entity's retirement needs and life cycle stage.

46. (New) The system of claim 41, wherein the asset allocation model for automatically determining varying proportions of at least one investment vehicle comprises:

means for determining automatic asset allocation based on a minimum data requirement as determined or approved by the Independent Person.

47. (New) The system of claim 41, wherein the asset allocation model for automatically determining varying proportions of at least one investment vehicle comprises:

means for automatically reallocating assets based on data received from or on behalf of the at least one entity as determined or approved by the Independent Person.

48. (New) The system of claim 47, wherein the assets are reallocated on a regular or irregular basis.

49. (New) The system of claim 41, wherein the asset allocation model for automatically determining varying proportions of at least one investment vehicle comprises:

means for automatically allocating, rebalancing or reallocating assets based on data from a variety of sources, as designed or approved by the Independent Person.

50. (New) A system for providing asset allocation and savings services to individuals comprising:

a data storage for storing data from at least one entity;

means for processing the data from each entity such that a savings program as well as an asset allocation model consisting of at least one asset class is established; and

means for allocating assets into a combination of at least one asset class as appropriate for each entity.

51. (New) The system of claim 50, wherein the entity is an individual.

52. (New) The system of claim 50, wherein the asset class may including varying proportions of shares or other interests in a plurality of investments.

53. (New) The system of claim 50, wherein the plurality of investments include collective investment vehicles.

54. (New) The system of claim 50, further comprising:  
means for generating a tangible report recommending or directly establishing a savings program that is appropriate for each entity.

55. (New) A computer implemented method for automatically providing asset allocation services to individuals comprising the steps of:

providing data storage for storing data from at least one source for at least one individual;

developing an asset allocation model designed or approved by an Independent Person such as an Independent Expert for automatically determining varying proportions of one or more investment vehicles;

applying the data to the asset allocation model; and  
automatically determining an appropriate asset allocation for the individual.

56. (New) The computer implemented method of claim 55, further comprising:

generating a report that informs the at least one individual at least of the specific asset allocations made, the total account balance and periodic contributions without direction from the individual.

57. (New) A computer implemented method for providing independent asset allocation and savings programs to individuals for investing in one or more asset classes while eliminating or ameliorating conflicts of interest, the method comprising the acts of:

developing an asset allocation model comprising at least one asset class using generally accepted principles of modern portfolio theory;

applying the data from a plurality of sources to the asset allocation model;

determining or approving an appropriate investment vehicle or combination of vehicles for the individual; and

implementing investments in at least one asset class or at least one combination of at least two asset classes.

58. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the conflicts of interest ameliorated or eliminated include a conflict between establishing asset allocation and investment programs and money management functions.

59. (New) The method of claim 57, further comprising the act of: developing mechanisms that elicit the funding needs of each individual.

60. (New) The method of claim 57, further comprising the act of: developing a savings program.

61. (New) The method of claim 60, further comprising the act of: coordinating the savings program with the asset allocation model.

62. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the one or more asset classes include professionally managed commingled investment vehicles.